

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the treatment and/or the prevention of diseases linked to~~ reducing the accumulation of triglycerides in tissues and blood comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as a therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of β -aminoisobutyric acid, ~~derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex~~ an organic or inorganic salt thereof, or an ester thereof.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment for lowering the blood levels of triglycerides comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as a therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of β -aminoisobutyric acid, ~~derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex~~ an organic or inorganic salt thereof, or an ester thereof.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 3 for treating or preventing hypertension.

6. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment for lowering liver triglyceride levels comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of β -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 6 for treating or preventing hepatic steatosis and related liver diseases.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the treatment or prevention of~~ treating or reducing the risk of developing an obese condition, said method comprising at least the step

of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as a therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of β -aminoisobutyric acid, ~~derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex~~ an organic or inorganic salt thereof, or an ester thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment for the reduction or inhibition of the gain of body fat comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as a therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of β -aminoisobutyric acid, ~~derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex~~ an organic or inorganic salt thereof, or an ester thereof.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for alleviating resistance or restoring sensitivity to insulin comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of β -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, for lowering the blood levels of insulin and/or glucose.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, for increasing the blood levels of adiponectin.

13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10 for treating or preventing type 2 diabetes and related cardiovascular diseases.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein β -aminoisobutyric acid is of ~~configuration~~ an L or D configuration or ~~under a form of~~ a mixture of L and D configurations.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the animal is a human.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the animal is an agricultural animal.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the animal is a domestic animal.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the animal is a laboratory animal.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the treatment and/or prevention of diseases linked to an~~ reducing the accumulation of triglycerides in tissues and blood, comprising:

providing a pharmaceutical composition comprising β -aminoisobutyric acid, ~~derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex~~ an organic or inorganic salt thereof, or an ester thereof as a therapeutically active agent, and

administering the pharmaceutical composition to a human or non human animal.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method is for the treatment and/or prevention of hypertension, angina pectoris, myocardial infarction and/or hyperlipemia.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method is for the treatment and/or prevention of hepatic steatosis, steatohepatitis and/or diabetes.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method is for the treatment and/or prevention of the syndrome X (i.e. metabolic syndrome).

25. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment and/or prevention of disease linked to an accumulation of insulin or glucose and/or decrease of adiponectin, comprising:

providing a pharmaceutical composition comprising β -aminoisobutyric acid as therapeutically active agent, and
administering the pharmaceutical composition to a human or non human animal.

26. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 25 wherein the method is for alleviating the resistance or restoring the sensitivity to insulin.

27. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 25 wherein the method is for the prevention and/or treatment of diabetes type 2.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein β -aminoisobutyric acid is of ~~configuration~~ an L or D configuration or ~~under a form of a mixture of L and D configurations, or the β -aminoisobutyric acid is a β -aminoisobutyric acid derivative which is an organic or inorganic salt, salt thereof, or an ester or amide thereof.~~

29-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~producing reduction of~~ reducing the fat mass in a human or non-human animal in need thereof, comprising administering thereto an effective amount of a nutritional composition according to claim 35 comprising as a nutritional active agent an effective amount of β -aminoisobutyric acid, an organic or inorganic salt thereof, or an ester thereof.

38. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ester is a lower alkyl ester.

39. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the ester is a lower alkyl ester.

40. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the ester is a lower alkyl ester.

41. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ester is a lower alkyl ester.
42. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the ester is a lower alkyl ester.
43. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the ester is a lower alkyl ester.